

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 /017 W
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P 201020Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0282

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 1221

BEIRUT PASS ADVANCEMAN GEORGE BECK

PASS: USDOC/CAGNE

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJ: RAILWAY TRADE MISSION

REF : JIDDA 0395

1. RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM BECK IN CAIRO ON FEBRUARY 19
STWTING THAT COMMERCE CONTINUES TO INSIST ON STOP IN
JIDDA AND THREE DAYS IN RIYADH.

2. REFTTEL STATED THAT UNLESS COMMERCE COULD PROVIDE
RATIONALE FOR A MISSION STOP IN JIDDA, EMBASSY WOULD NOT
RPT NOT ARRANGE PROGRAM FOR THAT CITY. NO SUCH RATIONALE
WAS FORTHCOMING. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY COMMERCE
SHOULD OVERLOOK STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS BOTH FROM EMBASSY
AND ITS OWN ADVANCE MAN ON THE SPOT. ASIDE FROM LACK
OF RATIONALE FOR EXTENDED PROGRAM, EMBASSY HAS BEEN
UNABLE TO ARRANGE HOTEL SPACE IN JIDDA'S OVERCROWDED
HOTELS FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS.

3. TOTAL PROGRAM IN RIYADH WILL CONSIST OF CALLS ON
THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, ON
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THE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S TRANSPORTATION EXPERT,

AND EMBASSY BRIEFING, AND A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE
AMBASSADOR. WE ARE HOPING TO PERSUADE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTORS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT DEALERS AND THE LIKE TO MEET
WITH OUR MISSION MEMBERS BUT DO NOT EXPECT A HEAVY
SCHEDULE OF INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS SINCE SUCH LIMITED
PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN RAILWAYS AS EXISTS IS CON-
FINED TO DHAHRAN. IN LIGHT OF MARGINAL UTILITY OF STOP
IN RIYADH, TOTAL POINTLESSNESS OF STOP IN JIDDA, AND
IMPOSSIBILITY AT THIS POINT OF OBTAINING HOTEL SPACE FOR
ADDITIONAL DAYS, EMBASSY DOES NOT CONCUR IN SCHEDULE
BEYOND THAT PLANNED FOR DHAHRAN, PLUS ONE AND A HALF
DAYS IN RIYADH, I.E. THE NIGHTS OF MARCH 2 AND 3.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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